The Court Houses of Canada

THE COURT HOUSES OF CANADA

Court houses have stood as the focal point of Canadian towns and cities since the institution of formal legal systems in the colonial period.

Initially, a court house marked the presence of a judicial authority and indicated a developing community.

The court house also represented the resources of a region and the abilities of local builders and architects.

Prominently located, a court house provided a gathering place for political and social functions.

Constructing immense court houses of complex design and abundant ornamentation often stimulated the economic growth of a town.

The court house became the symbol of prosperity and self-esteem for many communities.

Although no longer the major building in many towns and cities, the court house has grown with and sheltered the maturation of our legal system and now safeguards a judicial heritage which is distinctly Canadian.

This exhibit was prepared for the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings (CIHB) by the Design Section, Interpretation Division, Parks Canada, Ottawa.

WHY IS THIS EXHIBIT UNIQUE?

The first of its kind, the *Court Houses of Canada* exhibit interprets a building theme for the entire country.

To define an architectural tradition on a national scale required a major process of documentation. The Federal Government sponsored this research through the Canadian Inventory of Historic Buildings (CIHB).

Since 1970, the CIHB has been collecting information and photographs on the architectural heritage of Canada. The material is stored in a computer-based system for flexible retrieval. Much of the information on the pre-1930 court houses in this exhibit was drawn from the CIHB record of buildings.

The Court Houses of Canada
UNIT 1

COURT HOUSE OR OTHER WORKS

Figure of *Justice*, Court House, Brockville, Ontario (1845 to 1956), currently in the Rideau District Museum, Westport, Ontario

The First Court Facilities

Town and Harbour of Placentia, Newfoundland in 1786, from the private log book of the H.M.S. *Pegasus* watercolour, 6 x 20

The ruins of the Intendant's Palace from Grant's Wharf, Québec, Lower Canada (ca. 1800)
Detail of a watercolour with pen-and-ink outline

Court House, Osoyoos, British Columbia
(1874, burned 1877)

Barrington's Old Meeting House, Barrington, Nova Scotia (built 1765), currently a museum

Portrait of Judge (later Sir) Matthew Baillie Begbie (1819-94)

Court room, church interior, Fort Providence, Northwest Territories (1921)

Commissioned officers, Fort Walsh, Northwest Territories (1880)

Court House and Police Office, Prince Rupert, British Columbia (1908)

UNIT 2
Architectural Features of Court Houses

Court House, Vancouver, British Columbia (1907-11 to 1979)

Pictou County Court House, Pictou, Nova Scotia (1856-57 to present)

Hôtel de ville de Saint-Jérôme, comté de Terrebonne, Saint-Jérôme, Québec (1874 to 1924)

Revelstoke Court House, Revelstoke, British Columbia (1911-13 to present)

Peel County Court House, Brampton, Ontario (1865-66 to 1967)

Perth County Court House, Stratford, Ontario (1885-87 to present)

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The following list identifies the photographs in the exhibit with the names of the court houses, the architects or artists, and the photograph credits.

ARCHITECT OR ARTIST	PHOTOGRAPH CREDIT
William Holmes, sculptor	Rideau District Museum; by the Canadian Conservation Institute
Duke of Clarence, (afterwards William IV), artist	Public Archives of Canada
George Heriot, artist	Public Archives of Canada
Architect, undetermined	Provincial Archives of British Columbia
Architect, undetermined	CIHB
Photographer, undetermined	Provincial Archives of British Columbia
Church and architect, undetermined	Public Archives of Canada
Photographer, undetermined	Public Archives of Canada
Builder, undetermined	Vancouver City Archives
Francis Mawson Rattenbury, architect	CIHB
David Sterling, architect	CIHB, by Pridham's Studio Ltd., New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
Godfroi Laviolette, architect	CIHB
Thomas Hooper, architect	CIHB
William Kauffman, architect	CIHB
George F. Durand, architect	CIHB

Northumberland County Court House, Newcastle, New Brunswick (1828-29 to 1914)

Court House, County of Nanaimo, Nanaimo, British Columbia (1895-96 to present)

Court House, St. John's, Newfoundland (1901-04 to present)

Social Events and the Court House

A local band assembles for its portrait in front of the 1881 court house at Emerson, Manitoba

The official opening of the Vancouver Court House, Vancouver, British Columbia, by the Duke and Duchess of Connaught in 1912

A reunion of the Digby County Volunteers for the defense against the Fenian Raids in front of the County Court House, Digby, Nova Scotia, about 1910

Blood Indians greeting Sir Wilfrid Laurier in front of the Fort Macleod Court House, Alberta, in 1910

Types of Court Houses

Plan and elevations, Court House, Clinton, British Columbia (1876, destroyed ca. 1897-98)

Plans (1880?), thought to be for the present Gloucester County Court House, Bathurst, New Brunswick

Façade, Gloucester County Court House, Bathurst, New Brunswick (1900-02 to present)

Plan and façade, Frontenac County Court House, Kingston, Ontario (1855-58 to present)

Court Houses in Villages and Rural Areas
THE MARITIMES

District Court House, Harbour Grace, Newfoundland (1830-31 to present)

Circuit Court House, Alberton, Prince Edward Island (1877 to 1975), currently vacant

Argyle District Court House, Tusket, Nova Scotia (1801-05 to 1935), currently commercial offices; cell door and court room interior

Richmond County Court House, Arichat, Nova Scotia (1846-47 to present)

Designed by Grand Jury with Murray, Rainnie and Frost, contractors	Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
Francis Mawson Rattenbury, architect	CIHB
William H. Greene, architect	CIHB
John D. Achison and Co., architect	Provincial Archives of Manitoba
Francis Mawson Rattenbury, architect	Vancouver City Archives
Leslie R. Fairn, architect	Mrs. Bryson Denton and Lester F. Trask, Digby, Nova Scotia
Federal Department of Public Works, D. Ewart, Chief Architect	Archives, Glenbow-Alberta Institute
Edward Mallandaine, Sr., architect	Provincial Archives of British Columbia
R. C. Dunn, architect	Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
R. C. Dunn, architect	Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
Edward Horsey, architect	Photo, Public Archives of Canada; Plan, University of Toronto, School of Architecture, 1961: A. Bruce, F. Carter, and J. Gorham
Architect possibly Patrick Kough (Keough)	CIHB
Prince Edward Island, Department of Public Works	CIHB
Architect, undetermined	Fred A. Hatfield, Tusket, Nova Scotia
Alexander McDonald, architect	CIHB

Queens County Court House, Liverpool, Nova Scotia (1854 to present)

Northumberland County Court House, Newcastle, New Brunswick (1828-29 to 1914), currently a museum

Charlotte County Court House, St. Andrews, New Brunswick (1839-40 to present)

Carleton County Court House, Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick (1833-34 to 1909), currently a museum

Coat of Arms (1866), Carleton County Court House, Upper Woodstock, New Brunswick

QUÉBEC

Cour de circuit, comté de Témiscouata, L'Isle-Verte, Québec (1859-60 to 1922), currently vacant

Elevation, cour de circuit, comté de Témiscouata, L'Isle-Verte, Québec (undated)

Cour de circuit and Bureau d'enregistrement, L'Assomption, Québec (built 1811 as a house and store, additions 1822; court house 1842 to 1925), currently a registry office

Interior, cour de circuit and Bureau d'enregistrement, L'Assomption, Québec

ONTARIO

Prescott and Russell County Court House, L'Orignal, Ontario (1824-25 to present, major wing additions, 1861)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Court House and Provincial Government Building, Atlin, British Columbia (ca. 1900 to 1955), currently a museum

Court House, County of Cariboo, Richfield, British Columbia (1882 to 1912), currently in Barkerville Historic Site complex

UNIT 3
Court Houses in Towns and Cities
THE MARITIMES

District Court House, Placentia, Newfoundland (1902 to present)

William G. Hammond, architect	Nova Scotia Museum
Designed by Grand Jury with Murray, Rainnie and Frost, contractors	CIHB
Designed by Building Committee appointed by the Grand Jury with Thomas Berry, builder	CIHB
Architect, undetermined	Carleton County Historical Society, David L. Myles
John Lee, craftsman	Historical Resources Administration, Province of New Brunswick, David L. Myles
Architect, undetermined	CIHB
Architect, undetermined	Public Archives of Canada
Architect, undetermined	Public Archives of Canada
Craftsman, undetermined	Inventaire des biens culturels du Québec
Architect, undetermined	CIHB
Edward G. Garden, architect	Provincial Archives of British Columbia
British Columbia, Department of Public Works, architects	Heritage Conservation Branch, Province of British Columbia, A. W. Kerr
Architect, undetermined, probably William Henry	CIHB

Pictou County Court House, Pictou, Nova Scotia (1856-57 to present)

Stained glass window, Pictou County Court House, Pictou, Nova Scotia; imported from England

Court room interior, Pictou County Court House, Pictou, Nova Scotia

Victoria County Court House, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick (1877-78 to present)

Prisoners' box Victoria County Court House, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick

QUÉBEC

Palais de justice, comté de Bellechasse, Saint-Raphaël, Québec (1899-1900 to present)

Palais de justice de Joliette, Joliette, Québec (1860-62 to present)

ONTARIO

Middlesex County Court House, London, Ontario (1827-31 to present)

Lanark County Court House, Perth, Ontario (1842-43 to present)

Perth County Court House, Stratford, Ontario (1885-87 to present)

Court room and staircase, Perth County Court House, Stratford, Ontario

Leeds and Grenville County Court House, Brockville, Ontario (1841-45 to present)

THE PRAIRIES

County Court House and Town Hall, Neepawa, Manitoba (1884 to present)

Court House, Morden, Manitoba (1904-05 to present)

Territorial and District Court House, Fort Macleod, Alberta (1902-04 to 1971), currently a town hall

Churchill, Superintendent of Public Buildings	
David Sterling, architect	CIHB
Artist, undetermined	CIHB, by Pridham's Studio Ltd., New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
Peter Cormack, carpenter, interior detail	CIHB, by Pridham's Studio Ltd., New Glasgow, Nova Scotia
J. G. Fletcher, architect	Elsworth-DeMerchant, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick
J. G. Fletcher, architect	Elsworth-DeMerchant, Perth-Andover, New Brunswick
Architect, undetermined	CIHB
United Canadas, Department of Public Works, F. P. Rubidge, architect	CIHB
John Ewart, architect	Archives of Ontario
Malcolm McPherson, architect	CIHB
George F. Durand, architect	CIHB
John Matheson, staircase carver	CIHB
John Howard, architect	Parks Canada
C. Osborn Wickenden, architect	CIHB
Samuel Hooper, architect	CIHB
Federal Department of Public Works, D. Ewart, Chief Architect	Archives, Glenbow-Alberta Institute

Territorial Court House, Wolseley, Saskatchewan (1894-95 to ca. 1914), currently an annex to a nursing home

District Court House, Weyburn, Saskatchewan (1928 to present)

District Court House, Cardston, Alberta (1906-08 to present)

District Court House, Wetaskiwin, Alberta (1907-09 to present)

BRITISH COLUMBIA AND THE YUKON

Court House, County of West Kootenay, Rossland, British Columbia (1898-1901 to present)

Stained glass window, Court House, County of West Kootenay, Rossland, British Columbia (ca. 1900-01)

Court House, County of East Kootenay, Fernie, British Columbia (1909-11 to present)

Court House, County of Yale, Greenwood, British Columbia (1902-03 to 1953), currently a city hall

Territorial Court House, Dawson City, Yukon (1900-01 to 1910), currently offices

UNIT 4
Court Houses in Provincial Capitals and Major Cities
THE MARITIMES

Court House, St. John's, Newfoundland (1901-04 to present)

Judge's bench and accessories, Court Room No. 1, Court House, St. John's, Newfoundland

View from Duckworth Street, Court house, St. John's, Newfoundland

Halifax County Court House, Halifax, Nova Scotia (1858-62 to 1971), currently a library

Judge's bench, Halifax County Court House, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Federal Government, Department of Public Works, Thomas Fuller, Chief Architect	Saskatchewan Archives Board
Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works, Maurice W. Sharon, Provincial Architect	CIHB
Architect, undetermined, possibly Samuel S. Newton	CIHB
Alberta, Department of Public Works, A. M. Jeffers, Provincial Architect	CIHB
John J. Honeyman, architect	CIHB
Craftsman, undetermined	Vancouver Centennial Museum, Bill Haden Studios Ltd., Rossland, B.C.
George Stanley Rees; Honeyman and Curtis, architects	CIHB
George Dillon Curtis, architect	CIHB
Federal Department of Public Works, Thomas William Fuller, Resident Architect	Eben McAdam Collection, Special Collections Division, University of Alberta
William H. Greene, architect	CIHB
Horwood Lumber Co., interior woodwork	CIHB
William H. Greene, architect	CIHB
William Thomas and Sons, architect	*Roger's Photographic Advertising Album.* Halifax: Joseph S. Rogers, 1871, p. 64.
Craftsman, undetermined	CIHB

Arched corridor, Halifax County Court House, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Rosette on the ceiling of a court room, Halifax County Court House, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Province House, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island (1843-48 to 1872), currently Legislative Assembly

Court House, Saint John, New Brunswick (1826-29 to present)

Spiral staircase, Court House, Saint John, New Brunswick

QUÉBEC

Palais de justice de Québec, Québec City, Québec (1883-89 to present)

Palais de justice de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec (1904-06 to present)

Court room, Palais de justice de Sherbrooke, Sherbrooke, Québec

ONTARIO

Elevation (drawn in 1855), Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario (1829-32, major additions 1844 and 1857; superior courts of Ontario, 1846 to present)

General plan of grounds and out-buildings with proposed Law School (1865), Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario

Interior plan of the Great Library (built 1857), Osgoode Hall, Toronto, Ontario

Frontenac County Court House, Kingston, Ontario (1855-58 to present)

THE PRAIRIES

Law Courts Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba (1912-16 to present)

Spiral staircase, Law Courts Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Staircase, Law Courts Building, Winnipeg, Manitoba

Court House, Calgary, Alberta (1912-14 to 1962, museum until 1976, court house ca. 1977 to present)

Craftsman, undetermined	CIHB
Craftsman, undetermined	CIHB
Isaac Smith, architect	Public Archives of Canada
John Cunningham, architect	New Brunswick Museum
John Cunningham, architect	Provincial Archives of New Brunswick
Québec, Travaux publics, Jean-Baptiste Derome, Eugène Taché, architects	CIHB
Québec, Travaux publics, Elzéar Charest, architect	CIHB
Craftsman, undetermined	Inventaire des biens culturels du Québec
Hopkins, Lawford and Nelson, architects	Archives of Ontario
William Storm, architect	Archives of Ontario
Cumberland and Storm, architects	Archives of Ontario
Edward Horsey, architect	CIHB
Samuel Hooper and Victor W. Horwood, Provincial Architects	Provincial Archives of Manitoba
Craftsman, undetermined	CIHB
Craftsman, undetermined	CIHB
Alberta, Department of Public Works, A. M. Jeffers and R. P. Blakey, Provincial Architects	CIHB

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Provincial Court House, Victoria, British Columbia (1887-88 to 1962), currently a museum

Court House, Vancouver, British Columbia (1907-11 to 1979), currently vacant

Changing Attitudes—Changing Architecture

Supreme Court of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario (1938-39 to present)

Robson Square, The Law Courts, Vancouver, British Columbia (1974-79 to present); and court room

WALL GROUP
Court Houses in Towns and Cities

N.B. Only a selection or none of the following list may appear in the exhibit.

THE MARITIMES

Annapolis County Court House, Annapolis Royal, Nova Scotia (built 1837)

Digby County Court House, Digby, Nova Scotia (built 1908-10)

Georgetown Court House, Georgetown, Prince Edward Island (built 1887)

QUÉBEC

Palais de justice, Cowansville, Québec (built 1859-62)

Hôtel de ville d'Aylmer, Aylmer, Québec (built 1870-71)

Palais de justice de Valleyfield, Valleyfield, Québec (built 1901-03)

Façade of the 1922-26 annex, Court House, Montréal, Québec

ONTARIO

Eastern District Court House, Cornwall, Ontario (built 1830-33)

Niagara District Court House and Town Hall, Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario (built 1846-47)

Lennox and Addington County Court House, Napanee, Ontario (built 1864-65)

Herman Otto Tiedeman, architect	CIHB
Francis Mawson Rattenbury, architect	CIHB
Ernest Cormier, architect	Parks Canada
Arthur Erickson, architect	Arthur Erickson Architects/Wayne Thom Associates
Designed by Grand Jury with builder, Francis LeCain	CIHB
Leslie R. Fairn, architect	CIHB
W. C. Harris, architect	CIHB
United Canadas, Department of Public Works, F. P. Rubidge, architect	CIHB
Québec, Travaux publics, P. Gauvreau, architect	CIHB
Québec, Travaux publics, E. Charest, architect	CIHB
L.-A. Amos, Charles Saxe, and Ernest Cormier, architects	CIHB
Architect, undetermined	CIHB
William Thomas, architect	CIHB
John Power, architect	CIHB

Old Toronto City Hall, Toronto, Ontario (built 1889-1900); and Tower gargoyle (ca. 1898)

Entrance hall (ca. 1900), Old Toronto City Hall, Toronto, Ontario

Oxford County Court House, Woodstock, Ontario (built 1890-92)

Rainy River District Court House, Fort Frances, Ontario (built 1913-14)

THE PRAIRIES

Winnipeg Court House, Winnipeg, Manitoba (built 1882-83, addition 1893-94)

Court House, Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan (built 1908-09)

Court House, Battleford, Saskatchewan (built 1908-09)

Court House, Yorkton, Saskatchewan (built 1919-20)

Old Court House, Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta (built 1909)

Medicine Hat Court House, Medicine Hat, Alberta (built 1919-20)

BRITISH COLUMBIA

Provincial Court House, Nanaimo, British Columbia (built 1895-96)

Kamloops Court House, Kamloops, British Columbia (built 1908-09)

The CIHB is a data source for historians, urban planners, preservationists and groups interested in Canada's architectural past. All recorded information is available at cost and copies of building reports compiled to date are placed in the Public Archives in Ottawa and all Provincial Archives.
Cette publication est aussi disponible en français.

E. J. Lennox, architect	City of Toronto Archives
Craftsman, undetermined	Archives of Ontario
R. T. Brooks; Cuthbertson; and Fowler, architects	CIHB
Province of Ontario, Department of Public Works, F. R. Heakes, Chief Architect	Provincial Archives of Manitoba
Architect, undetermined; addition by Charles H. Wheeler, architect	Provincial Archives of Manitoba
Frank Darling and J. A. Pearson, architects	CIHB
Edgar M. Storey and William Gysbert Van Egmond, architects	CIHB
Saskatchewan, Department of Public Works, Maurice W. Sharon, Provincial Architect	CIHB
Alberta, Department of Public Works, A. M. Jeffers, Provincial Architect	CIHB
Alberta, Department of Public Works, R. P. Blakey, Provincial Architect	Provincial Archives of Alberta, J. J. Barrie Papers
Francis Mawson Rattenbury, architect	CIHB
J. J. Honeyman and G. D. Curtis, architects	CIHB